

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01768 180817Z

16

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 L-03

SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 IGA-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 028789

O P 180700Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5863

INFO USS ADAMS PRIORITY

USS MCCANDLESS PRIORITY

USS KOELSCH PRIORITY

USS BRUMBY PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

CINCLANT FLT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ENRG, MA, US

SUBJECT: DIEGO-SUAREZ TURNOVER

REFS: A/ COMIDEASTFOR 171610Z DEC 73

B. STATE 245731, 171739Z DEC 73 (NOTAL)

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS TECHNICAL COUNSELOR, ASSIGNED ACTION BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER FOLLOWING CHARGE'S DEC 17 DEMARCHE, INFORMED CHARGE MORNING DEC 18 HE "HOPES SOMETHING MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY CAN BE WORKED OUT." PROMISED ANSWER BY AFTERNOON DEC 18. BOTH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH WHOM CHARGE HAD SECOND CONVERSATION EARLY MORNING DEC 18, AND TECH COUNSELOR POINTED OUT FOREIGN MINISTER (NAVAL COMMANDER) RATSIRAKA SCHEDULED RETURN TANANARIVE 180630Z DEC 73 AND PROMISED MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP IMMEDIATELY WITH HIM.

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2. SINCE TECH COUNSELOR REITERATED DEC 17 NOTE RESCINDING

AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN BASED ON TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BERTHING AND ESPECIALLY FUEL, CHARGE REVIEWED FRANCO-MALAGASY-US ACTION TO DATE AND LEFT NO DOUBT WE HAD FIRM FRENCH ASSURANCE FUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE. CHARGE ALSO STRESSED DANGER SHIPS WOULD BE IN IF COULD NOT REFUEL DS, AND IN RESPONSE TECH COUNSELOR'S SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT REFUELING POSSIBILITIES COMORES OR ELSEWHERE, SAID THIS WOULD IMPERIL SHIPS. EARLIER, ACTING FONMIN HAD BEEN MOST IMPRESSED BY ADVERSE MORALE FACTOR IF CHRISTMAS MAIL NOT DELIVERED.

3. EMBASSY NOW SLIGHTLY, BUT ONLY SLOWLY, MORE OPTIMISTIC

THAN EVENING DEC 17. IN VIEW TECH COUNSELOR'S STATEMENT PARA 1, EMBASSY WILL WAIT BEFORE POSSIBLY ATTEMPTING TAKE MATTER UP WITH HEAD OF GOVT RAMANANTSOA (REFTEL B).

4. EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN POLITICAL MOTIVATION IN RESCINDING AUTHORIZATION. CURRENT VISIT OF FIVE-MAN LIBYAN MISSION, WHOSE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OS TO DISCUSS ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AND LIBYA'S OWN REVOLUTION, COULD BE REASON, PARTICULARLY SINCE DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE DS IN MADAGASCAR ITINERARY.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUELING, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, PORT CLEARANCES, POSTAL SERVICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TANANA01768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731217/aaaaamnp.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A/ COMIDEASTFOR 171610Z DEC 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIEGO-SUAREZ TURNOVER
TAGS: MARR, ENRG, MA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005